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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
MCT-01 IO-13 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 /091 W
----------041290 251048Z /16-43
R 241050Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6336
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - PARA 1)

E.O. 11652: NAWA
TAGS: CASC, SA
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH EMIR OF EASTERN PROVINCE

REF: (A) DHAHRAN 0794, (B) JIDDA 4453 (C) RIYADH 0397

1. ON 21 JUNE CONSOFFS MET WITH EOO ABDUL MOHSIN BIN-JILUWI AND DISCUSSED SEVERAL CURRENT AREAS OF CONCERN. FOREMOST AMONG THESE WAS THE CONTINUAL DETENTION OF AMCIT ALCOHOL OFFENDERS PENDING A SAG DECISION ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF NON-MUSLIMS. CONSOFFS POINTED OUT THAT DETENTION OF THESE MEN HAD GROWN QUITE LENGTHY AND THAT THE AMERICANS INVOLVED HAD ACTED ON ADVICE OF CONGEN IN INITIALLY REFUSING TO ACCEPT LASHES AS PART OF THEIR SENTENCES. WHILE THE EMIR APPEARED SYMPATHETIC TO THE PLIGHT OF THE DETAINED AMCITS HERE, HE STATED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD MADE SEVERAL INQUIRIES WITH SAG OFFICIALS IN RIYADH IN AN EFFORT TO EXPEDITE A DECISION IN THIS MATTER. THE MEIR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT VERY RECENTLY
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THIS DECISION HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS ELDERS (ULEMA) AND THAT HE NOW EXPECTED A QUICK RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. EMIR BIN-JILUWI ADDED THAT IF A DECISION WAS NOT FORTHCOMING THAT HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO END DETENTION OF AMCITS BY HIS OWN AUTHORITY.

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2. THE EMIR STATED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY POLICY CHANGE REGARDING WOMEN WORKING IN THE E.P. AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED BY THIS POST, IT APPEARS THAT THE EMIR IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID INVOLVE-MENT WITH THE CURRENT WAVE OF CONCERN OVER WOMEN WORKING IN THE PROVINCE. WHILE PASSPORT AND LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS SEEM TO BE MUCH MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE DECREE RECENTLY PROLULGATED IN RIYADH (REFTEL C) THE EMIRATE HERE SEEMS TO BE DOING ITS BEST TO IGNORE THE ENTIRE PROBLEM.

3. LATER THE SAME MORNING CONSOFFS MET BRIEFLY WITH SAG FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE WHO INFORMED US THAT CONCERTED ACTION ON THE PART OF LOCAL SECURITY FORCES AND POLICE WAS BEING MADE TO APPREHEND THE INDIVIDUAL SPRAYING WOMEN WITH ACID IN AL-KHOBAR (DHAHRAN 0803). THE EMIR HAS ORDERED THE ARREST OF THE CULPRIT TO BE THE TOP PRIORITY FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, EVEN TO THE POINT OF LAYING DOWN A 48 HOUR DEADLINE FOR THE ARREST. POST WILL ADVISE WHEN FURTHER DETAILS OF THE CASE COME TO LIGHT.
MEYERS

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